

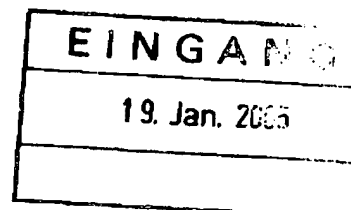
Docket No. 5312

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the patent application of Loser et al.

Serial No.: 10/614692
Filing date: 07/08/2003
Title: Precoat Filter Cartridge, Precoat Filter,
and Method of Use
Group unit: 1724
Examiner: Popovics

Declaration of John Desmet
TRISLOT N.V.
Roterijstraat 134
BE-8790 Waregem



Sir,

I hereby declare that:

I am the general manager of Trislot N.V. in Belgium. Trislot nv is the leading manufacturer of high quality wedge wire filter cartridges and amongst others manufactures precoat filter cartridges according to the European patent 203 206 and according to pending US application 10/614692.

I was asked why high quality, high strength precoat filter cartridges with a small diameter as claimed in the above mentioned application have not been manufactured before the filing date.

The quality of filter cartridges manufactured according to the regular manufacturing methods decreases substantially as the diameter of the cartridge decreases and the demands on mechanical strength increase. I define the quality of a precoat filter cartridge as follows:

- perfect roundness
- high stability
- perfect straightness
- very accurate, narrow slot openings
- high production accuracy (narrow tolerances)

With conventional manufacturing machines, it was difficult and economically impossible to produce filter cartridges with a sufficiently round shape and sufficient mechanical strength having a diameter of less than 30 mm. A deformation which can occur during production of small cartridges is shown in Annex I. Such a deformation can also influence the accuracy of the

slot openings. Further, the stability of a filter cartridge decreases with decreasing diameter, requiring the use of support wires with a heavier cross section that poses new challenges to the manufacturing. A deformation of the axial support profiles which can occur during production of small cartridges is shown in Annex II. Deformations along the long axis of the cartridge may occur which are not in conformity of the high quality requirements for filter cartridges.

For the above reasons and to the best of my knowledge no precoat filter cartridges with a diameter of less than 30 mm of the type claimed in the above mentioned application and meeting the qualitative and economical requirements were available prior to the filing date of this application. EP 203 206 is related to filter cartridges having a diameter of more than 30 mm, as it was unknown to produce thinner filter cartridges that met all the specifications and quality requirements in an economically justifiable way, until the above mentioned application was filed.

Due to the above described difficulties, the manufacturing of filter cartridges having a diameter of less than 30 mm and meeting the qualitative and economical requirements could not be simply performed with the know-how known from EP 203 206.

I declare hereby that all statements made herein are made to the best of my knowledge, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that the making of willful false statements or the like is punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

John Desmet


John Desmet
Voor bvba Kreoon
Gedelegeerd Bestuurder

Annexes:

- Annex I: Comparison of a precoat filter cartridge of insufficient quality with a high quality precoat filter cartridge
- Annex II: Picture of a filter cartridge of insufficient quality due to distorted axial support profiles